

MEMOIRS

AND INTERESTING

ADVENTURES

OF AN

Embroidered WAISTCOAT, &c.

PART II.

[Price Six-pence.]

M E M O I R S

AND INTERESTING

A D V E N T U R E S

O F A N

EMERSON WALTON & CO.

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OF AN

Embroidered WAISTCOAT.

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In which is introduced,

The EPISODE of a PETTICOAT.

——— *Ridentem dicere verum*

Quid vetat?

HORAT.

LONDON:

Printed for and sold by J. BROOKE, at the *Golden Head*, under *St. Dunstan's Church*, *Fleet-street*.

M.DCC.LI.

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PART II.



STRUTT, by Means of his inflexible Assurance, insinuated himself into the Favour of some Wenches, not altogether despicable; he was particularly happy in the Affection of several Chambermaids, and when he has bragged of his drinking

B.

Tea

Tea at the Lord *H—s*, he always either descended into the Kitchen, or ascended four Pair of Stairs; for the intermediate Regions were never the Scenes of *Strutt's* Gallantries. By what Stratagem I know not, but my Master got acquainted with a Waiting-Maid, or rather a Maid of Honour, to a Lady of very great Honour upon the Stage. Miss *Hipbop* had promising Qualities, she danced and sung tolerably, and it was not doubted but, by her Mistress's Tuition, she would, in a few Years, be able to repeat twenty or thirty Lines with Theatrical Propriety, at least with the Theatrical Tone, and so commence a deep Tragedian; and indeed Miss was very industrious, she read a great many Plays; and though she was often obliged to have Recourse to a Dictionary, for an Explanation of some very sublime Words, yet such is the Force of Perseverance, that it conquers almost every Difficulty that is to be surmounted by human Means; and in Miss it displayed itself in a very extraordinary Degree. She could repeat you some
of

of the finest Strokes in *Shakespeare* or *Otway*, particularly such Passages as *her Mistress* used to receive Claps of Theatrical Thunder for uttering.

By a frequent Attention to Plays, she became habitually Poetical, and would talk you over in Blank Verse as well as her Mistress. *Strutt*, who pretended a Smattering in the same Way, often engaged her at her own Game; but as there can be no Argumentation except there is Difference of Sentiments, *Strutt*, for the sake of Debate, would often contradict her, and would (as to be sure he was very capable) assign Reasons why, in his Opinion, *Shakespeare* was neither so great a Poet, nor *Garrick* so great a Player as the World took them to be. This Kind of Debate was pleasing enough to Miss, as it afforded her an Opportunity of quoting Verses in favour of her Heroes, and defeating her Antagonist by the Multiplicity of Authority.

Strutt made Love to Miss *Hibbop*, who was, to speak the Truth, somewhat amorous. He offered her Marriage, which she prudently rejected, as it must unavoidably have retarded her Progress on the Stage. He offered likewise to ease her of her Virginity, which, by the by, was given before to the whining Theatrical *Templar*, whose Vanity and Affectation have made so ridiculous a Figure in the first Part of these Memoirs. It was some Time before *Strutt* could procure any Favours from this young Lady ; whenever he struggled for a Kiss, she would cry out with a Vehemence that might make an Impression on the Upper Gallery, "Hold, hold ! Lord, you're as furious as *Lee's Alexander* ; but I'll let you know that I can be as imperious as the same Poet's *Roxana*, or *Congreve's Zara*." Whenever he attempted to put his Hand in her Bosom, she was fired at the Affront, and raged like the Bellowing of *Mount Vesuvius* ; " Who is he that dares " assault the sun-clad Power of Chastity ?" Sun-clad or moon-clad, cries *Strutt*, I meant no Harm ; but, Madam, you are so
dam-

damnably ticklish; Lord, one can't speak to you, but they must be doom'd by your Eyes unto Exile from your Presence, and sent a packing upon the Legs of Poetry; I never knew any thing so squeamish.

Strutt found, in his own Experience, the Consequence of Affiduity; for, by a frequent Application, he conquered at last; not but that some other Causes concurred to effect the Conquest; for the young Lady was not eminent enough to have many Lovers, either honourable or dishonourable, otherwise, I dare venture to affirm, my Master never would have triumph'd: She made use of *Strutt* only because no-body else was making Offers, and to supply her present Necessities. He continued to visit her pretty often, and sometimes was with her all Night, during which Time I contracted a very intimate Acquaintance with a very communicative Petticoat of Miss *Hipbop's*, who had seen a great deal of the World, and been in the Service of Ladies of the first Rank in Gallantry. We frequently,

quently, while our Masters and Mistresses were asleep, or doing somewhat else, indulged ourselves in chitchat; Miss *Petticoat* never scrupled, upon Sollicitation, to tell me her Story, which, by way of Epifode, and in Imitation of the Epic Poets, I shall take the Liberty to trouble you with, as Epifodes, in all modern Novels, are become fashionable, and are useful in relieving the Mind from the Fatigue of attending to a Series of Circumstances of a similar Kind; and as I look upon my Story to be as wonderful and as replete with Matter as most Part of our late Novels, so I have no Mind that this Embellishment should be wanting to compleat it, and make it appear to as great Advantage as its Neighbours.

Know, Mr. *Embroidery*, that I am perhaps of as high Extraction as yourself; and if I had said higher, I should not have told a Lye; for though I have heard you boast often of a Lord that was your Master, yet I am sure my Mistress was such a Mistress, and, indeed, I have had more Mistresses

presses than one, that the greatest Peers in
 the Realm would have been glad to have
 laid their Paws on, and would have given
 many a Thousand Pound for a favourable
 Hour with them. But tho' your Lord was
 a rakish Man, and a bad Man, my Lady
 was a Maid, a chaste Maid, and a Maid of
 Honour; and as beautiful and accomplish-
 ed in female Excellencies, as your Lord
 was in the manly or more robust Perfec-
 tions. But tho' thus I speak of Miss *Flip-
 pant*, my first Mistress, she was not with-
 out her Oddities. Nature had been most
 munificent in bestowing upon her as charm-
 ing a Face, as fine a Leg, as white a Skin,
 as lovely a Bosom, and as noble a Sett of
 Teeth, as perhaps ever were granted for
 the Destruction of the Beaus; but Nature
 had not been so kind in furnishing her with
 a Shape, which was at best but ordinary,
 and never, for certain Reasons, could bear
 a critical Examination; however, with such
 Accomplishments as she had, she found
 Means to operate Mischief enough amongst
 the Men, if falling in Love be Mischief, as
 I can

I can make it appear, upon a great many Occasions, to be.

My Lady generally dress'd in a *French Sack*, she wore the richest Cloaths that the Nation could furnish, though I cannot say the Mercers owe her great Obligations, notwithstanding her being a violent Consumer of their Commodities. You must know, by Means of my Intimacy with my Lady, which was greater than any other of her Servants, save her Smock, I may make bold to affirm that I know more of her secret Story than any Body else. My Lady had the Passion of Admiration strongly implanted in her Breast; and if I had used the Word *Coquette*, I should not have done her much Injustice. She knew how to conduct the Motion of every Joint, so as to effect something in her general Scheme. She had a peculiar Dexterity in giving an oblique View of her Leg, by which Part of me was sometimes seen; and, as a Bard in a modern Epilogue observes very prettily, speaking of the Petticoat,

But

*But Jest apart—for all our Bard has wrote,
 Our most alluring Bait's the Petticoat.
 Before this magic Shrine the proudest fall;
 'Tis that enchanting Circle draws in all.*

My Lady, besides, was never under any violent Apprehensions of catching Cold; for she gave as distinct a View of her Bosom as consisted not only with Decency but Possibility. Her Bosom was warm with youthful Fancies, and her Ladyship's Dreams were of a soft, entrancing Nature. She had a most lively Imagination, which, tho' perhaps not extensive enough to form the Plan of a regular Play, yet could transport her to the Land of *Elysium*, and fill her Head with Drums and Routs, and Lovers.

She regretted much that ever the World should have lost that antient *Lacedemonian* Custom (the only Article in History which, I believe, my Lady ever remembered) of the Ladies wearing Slits in their Gowns

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and

and Petticoats, by which the Men were enabled to contemplate the Straitness of their Legs, and their fine quivering Thighs; and indeed my Mistress's Thighs, to do them Justice, are as proportionable and well-turn'd as her Arms, which all who have seen admire.

She had frequent Love-Letters pouring in from all Quarters, some of which were tolerably spelt, though wrote by Persons of Birth; and I have known more than one or two without any false Concordance, which some of the love-sick Swains were guilty of, I suppose on Purpose, as it is genteel to do every thing carelessly.

Miss *Flippant* had not with her other Accomplishments, the Advantage of a great Fortune; so that if ever she should be so happy as to enter into the holy State of Wedlock, her Expectations must arise from different Motives, than those which induce People now a Days to embrace Matrimony. It was therefore Miss's Game
to

to make as many Lovers as possible, and to chuse one who was most likely to support her Taste, and constitute her Happiness; but unluckily for Miss, there were many Rivals who were obliged to play the same Game, which divided the Affection of the Youths of Fortune; therefore something must be done to acquire a Name.

She never yet had the Pleasure of seeing herself in the Print-Shops, and how to procure that Honour, and fix a more general Attention on her Accomplishments, was the Question.

In this Dilemma she sent for the celebrated Mrs. C—b—r, whose Passion for Admiration raged as violent as her own; and who by her great Knowledge of the World, and long Experience in Life, was very capable of communicating proper Advice. This Lady, touched with the Situation of Miss *Flippant*, told her, that as there was soon to be exhibited a new Kind of Entertainment, after the *Venetian*

Manner, nothing could answer better than to appear there in such a Manner, as to strike the Attention of the whole House, which would soon fly to the Publick upon the Wings of Scandal, and would at least have the desired Effect of immortalizing her Name,

A Stockjobber does not hear of the Rise of Stocks, nor a Poet the Success of his Play, nor a Merchant the Arrival of his Ships, with greater Rapture than Miss *Flippant* did this Proposal: Her Breast beat with Impatience for the Day; she had, by the Help of Mrs. C——, digested a regular Plan for this great Occasion, and had held several Consultations with Mr. *Whalebone*, her Staymaker.

The particular Description of my Lady's Dress, I think proper not to trouble you with; the Day came at last, in which my Lady succeeded beyond her warmest Expectation; she fixed the Eyes of a Croud of Spectators at once upon her, and nothing

thing but Miss *Flippant* was talk'd of for six Months together. She appeared in a few Days in all the Print-shops, array'd in her own captivating Dress, and had the Satisfaction of hearing every Day of something extremely pretty said or wrote of her; which, to the Ears of one who is fond of Admiration, is the sweetest Music that can be play'd or sung.

Whether my Lady found this Stratagem effective towards cloathing her with a Husband, I know not; for I was soon, in a generous Fit, complimented to her Waiting-Woman; and, as People of Spirit are fond of Novelties, of new Faces, and Changes, Miss *Flippant* thought proper to dismiss my present Mistress, not without Marks of Approbation that her past Service had been faithful and praise-worthy.

Mrs. *Deborah Alcock* was now out of Place, and took a private Lodging in a genteel Lane; where she lived in Expectation of being provided for. Mrs. *Deborah* had

had the Reputation of being worth some Money, and as she had been a Lady's Woman, consequently, by Means of second-hand Airs, was tolerably well-bred: Her Person was not quite ugly, though some People had the Impudence to apply that Epithet to her; however, her Person, it must be owned, contributed not a little towards the Preservation of her Virtue; for Mrs. *Deborah* was not without Sensations: Besides, she was turned of Thirty, a Circumstance which she carefully concealed, and was beginning to think that the State of Matrimony was not likely to fall to her Share; this operated towards facilitating a Match that was in Agitation betwixt a Widower in the Neighbourhood and Mrs. *Deborah*. This Widower was worth a little Money; tho' bred to no Business, he thought he might live more easily, especially as he had no Children, if their Stocks were joined.

At last they were married; but as my Mistress was an active, stirring Woman,
and

and had been accustomed to live in Sight of Splendor, she could not bear the Thoughts of retiring so soon from the World. She therefore set up a flaming Milliner's Shop, and by means of her late Mistress's Interest, she soon got the Custom of the most famous Ladies in Town ; Lady P——, Lady T——, the abovemention'd Actress ; and a great deal of theatrical Business. My Mistress was an inquisitive Woman, and had a great Desire of knowing every Body's Affairs ; she knew all the Ladies in Town, that were said to be no better than they should be ; for a great Part of them were her Customers ; and as she has often exerted herself in decorating the Heads of Ladies of Quality, by her curious Art of making up Caps, &c. so she has doubtless contributed her Share in promoting the general Interest of Gallantry and Intrigue.

Of all my Mistress's Customers, I shall never forget two, who outshone the rest, as much as the Sun does the Moon, or you,
Mr.

hunning
 Mr. *Embroidery*, a mean red Bit of Cloth with Lace on it; they were called the Miss *Gingams*, just imported from *Hibernia*, where they had reigned without Controul; but as *Hibernia* is not a proper Scene of Action, for accomplishing the great Business of a Husband, especially Husbands of Quality, so the Miss *Gingams* may be properly enough said to have come here to make their Fortunes, or indeed may be called *Fair Fortune-Hunters*. I won't take upon me to say, but that the Miss *Gingams* were Ladies of great Honour, and that they endeavoured to deal fairly in all their Transactions, both with Men and Women. No sooner had they shewn themselves at Places of publick Resort, than an Alarm soon diffused itself through the Ranks of the Belles, each was conscious of an Eclipse; and as it is most unpleasing to suffer the Discontinuation of Praise and Adulation, so these Fair-ones may be well assured they had not many Admirers of their own Sex, a Discouragement that every reigning Toast must certainly meet with;

with ; and indeed the Mortification is not much, when it is considered that they have a full Recompence in the Praises of the other Sex, whose Favour it is their Business particularly to engage.

The Miss *Gingams* were not long without a Patron, they found a most munificent one in the Person of the Right Honourable the E— of —, who gallanted them to Masquerades, Ridotto's, Routs, and Drums, &c. the young Ladies carried on the most surprizing Conquests, every Public Night brought a new Accession of Lovers, more than they knew how to dispose of; some were of the first Quality, who, it may be presumed, will succeed, if their Intentions are honourable, as who doubts the Honour of Persons of Quality?

It is, in some Respects, a Misfortune to be born with very distinguishing Perfections, particularly those of Beauty; for it places the Possessors in so conspicuous a Light, that Censure will find some Veil to

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throw

throw over the Lustre of Charms. The Severe and Prudish have charged the *Gingams* with Coquettishness and Flirting, with an Affectation of dressing airy, or rather indecently, particularly in making too full a Display of their Hemispheres (to use the favourite Phrase of a modern Memoir-Writer) and giving themselves Airs which are rather loose than courtly. Others again have declared that the Perfection of the *Gingams* consists only in their Person; for that Nature has been very sparing in her Gifts of Understanding, and has withheld as much of Intellect, as she in Proportion gave away in Beauty. But I am of Opinion that these Allegations are not true in every Circumstance; for I have heard my Mistress say, and there are few better qualified to judge than she, that to be sure the young Ladies dressed in a very pretty Manner, and they had just as much Sense as young Ladies generally have.

Whether they made their Fortunes or no I cannot determine, for my Mistress thought

thought proper to make a Present of me to her Shop-woman, who soon, for Reasons best known to herself, left her Business to commence a new State of Life.

Miss *Lisper*, my present Possessor, had, if I am not much mistaken, sometimes Conversation with Men, and as they who play at Bowls must expect Rubbers, she began to feel an Increase of her Size, which she was afraid might in Time be discovered, and which perhaps was the Reason of her quitting the Shop; but as Miss could not live without Employment, she made Interest with the Waiting-Maid of the Countess of P——, who, by her Lady's Means, recommended Miss to the Place of Maid to the celebrated Miss *Fanny Murray*, who had no Objections against the Girl on Account of her Misfortune, as she was not herself very rigid, and knew that these Things will fall out.

Miss M—— is perhaps as generous a Mistress as is to be found in London or

Westminster ; she is neither severe in her Actions, nor rigid in the Execution of them ; she is good-natured and affable ; in the Exercise of which Virtues she finds her Account ; for as Miss lives on the Publick, it is her immediate Business to please her Company by Blandishment and Indulgence,

It will perhaps appear strange when I tell you, that tho' I have belonged to Ladies of so great Distinction, yet, by being in the Possession of Miss *Lisper*, and she being first Maid to Miss *M——*, I accidentally saw finer Company than ever I did before, but indeed they were generally of one Sex ; for the Ladies of Figure, except such as were of Miss *M——*'s own Stamp, never approached her ; and those who did come were chiefly Lady *P——*, Lady *T——*, the celebrated Lady Frail, and Mrs. *W——*, and a few more of inferior Order, who held Correspondence with Miss *M——*, concerning the general Topics of their Trade.

My

who?

My Mistress was not without her Gallants, for some Gentlemen who attended the great Personages who visited Miss M—, as they knew they had no Chance to succeed in that Quarter, therefore made Offers to my Mistress, and not always in vain; nor was Miss *Lisper* a despicable Bargain, though not quite so fine a Woman as her Mistress.—At last my Mistress's Size grew unwieldy, and she took private Lodgings for the Convenience of Lying-in, during which Æra, I was stole by her Nurse, who was a bad Woman, and sold at *Monmouth-street*, where I remained till I was bought by Miss *Hip-hop*, as a pre-requisite Article to fit her for the Stage, and in whose Possession I have been ever since, though I once was afraid of suffering very great Indignities by the Hands of a merry Wag, who struggled with Miss for that which she held most dear, and which at last he wrested from her.

Miss

Miss *Petticoat* thus ended her Story :
 And as for me, I still remained the
 Property of *Strutt*, who had been my
 Master a greater Number of Months than
 any I had the Honour to serve ; but as
 People are apt to lose Conceit of the best
 things by Familiarity and long Possession,
Strutt now grew weary of me, and bar-
 tered with an old *Frenchman* for a Waist-
 coat that struck his Eye, and which he
 thought too airy for the old Man.

This old Fellow had been a smart
 Youth in his Time, and as liquorish a
 Rogue as ever belonged to the *Grand*
Ménarch ; when he was young, he pur-
 sued Glory in the Field, in the Cabinet,
 and in the barren Regions of Literature ;
 he was a great Schemer, and had spent a
 very considerable Fortune in the Execution
 of them, without being able to bring one
 of them to bear ; besides his Faculty for
 Schemes, he possessed himself of the No-
 tion that he was a great Philosopher, and
 had

had several unsuccessful Touches at the Longitude; at the Commencement of the late War, imagining himself a great Navigator, he found Means to get the Command of a Privateer, in which he launched out in Expectation of purchasing not only an immense Fortune, but immortal Laurels, by his Courage and Conduct, in which he was likewise disappointed, for he soon lost his Privateer, and if we may believe the *English* Captain who took her, without giving any Discoveries of either the one or the other.

Monfieur *Depleau* had a most violent Inclination to know the World; and therefore addicted himself to travelling, that he might examine the Arts and Manufactures, Commerce and Policy, of the different Nations of the World, and by these Means compare the States he traversed to that of *France*, by which he might judge how much that Kingdom is superior to all other Nations under the Sun; for the *French*, to do them Justice, are so violent
Lovers

Lovers of their own Country, that they have no Eyes to see any Excellence in which it is outshone.

Monfieur *Depleau* had remained a pretty while in *England*, not without some Advantage to his external Figure; for whereas, when he arrived in *London*, he was meagre, wan, and had really something of a rueful Look, yet behold him now, and he exhibits a Jolliness of Countenance, and a Rotundity of external Parts; Monfieur finds at least something in *London*, he could not find *à la Paris*, and therefore is under some Obligations to this Metropolis.

My Master was a prodigious Newsmonger; he kept a secret Correspondence with half the Cabinets in *Europe*, and understood the different Interests of every crown'd Head that can well be mentioned. How he came by his Intelligence I know not; but he knew, or pretended to know, the Result of Councils held in
Spain,

Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, or Poland, before it was possible the News could arrive by Course of Express from any one of these Courts at our Court. He was to be sure a Genius; for he had a Taste for a great many Species of Knowledge: He was likewise a Virtuoso of the first Eminence, and could shew you a Lock of the Hair which grew on the Tail of the famous Horse upon which *Lewis XIV.* rode, and a Snuff-box belonging to the great Duke of *Orleans*. He possessed a tolerable Understanding of Botany, Minerals, and Architecture; and, with all these Accomplishments, he made a considerable Figure at *Slaughter's*, a Nursery for Vir-
Coffee House

My Master, however, was not very rich; nay, on the contrary, so poor, that if he had not translated *English Books* into *French*, I know not how he would have been able to live; but by this Shift he supported his Dignity, and made a tolerable Appearance in Point of Dress. He happened to

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be out of Cash at the Time of the general Mourning, and was put to the Shift of pawning me, in order to furnish himself with the proper Requisites for his Appearance in Sables; and here I am likely to remain, unless I be redeemed by some other Hand than my late Master's; for he promised to fetch me in a Fortnight; otherwise this worthy Gentleman here might if he pleased sell me, and shall be very glad to become your Servant.

F I N I S.

